SOLIDARITY WITH THE TORTURED ANARCHISTS & ANTI-FASCISTS IN RUSSIA

Starting in October 2017, the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) kidnapped six people in Penza, planting weapons in their cars and using torture to force them to sign forged confessions admitting to membership in an invented “terror network.” Arrestees were beaten, hung upside down, and electrocuted. At the end of January 2018, the FSB arrested two more anti-fascists in St. Petersburg and subjected them to the same treatment. In response to solidarity actions in Moscow and Chelyabinsk, several more activists were arrested, tortured with electrical shocks, and criminally charged. These arrests are part of a larger crackdown preceding the 2018 presidential elections and the World Cup.

For years, police agencies around the world have attempted to fabricate conspiracies in order to frame anarchists and anti-fascists as participants in nationwide or global terrorist networks. All of those attempts have been dismal failures. Now, the Russian security services have introduced an innovation that they hope will finally make this strategy succeed. If they succeed in using torture to force false confessions and wrongful convictions, other police agencies across the world may begin to utilize the same tactics.

Spread the word about the torture cases in Russia. We could be next.

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